

State Representative

Dan Leonard

House District 50

Legislative Survey

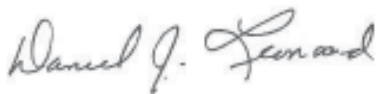
Dear Neighbor,

Session has already commenced marking the start of Indiana's 115th gathering of the General Assembly. I encourage you to please look through the House Republican initiatives for this 2007 session. I again pledge to bring fiscal control, increased economic development, and an improved infrastructure to Indiana.

Enclosed in my newsletter you will find my legislative survey, which I hope you will take the time to complete so I can have a better understanding of issues important to you. **Included** in the newsletter is **a legislative plan that will continue to help bring** positive initiatives to the state. Some initiatives addressed within **the** plan include the continuance of fiscal integrity in the state's finances by again balancing Indiana's budget, increasing the state's business capital with more Hoosier businesses, and increasing educational opportunities for young Hoosiers in the state.

It is my goal to continue to listen to the comments and concerns continuing to lead with the interests of the citizens across Huntington and Whitley Counties. If you should have any questions regarding any items addressed within the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dan Leonard

Representative Leonard describes legislative procedures to a student page during session.



How to Contact State Rep. Dan Leonard

If you have a question regarding state government, there are three ways you can contact Rep. Leonard:

Mail

State Rep. Dan Leonard
200 W. Washington
Room 401
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone

(800) 382-9841

E-mail

H50@in.gov

Fill Out This Survey Online!

Visit my website at
www.in.gov/h50
to complete this survey and send me additional comments.

Plan for Indiana's Progress

1. **Balance the 2008-09 State Budget** with no general tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers to artificially balance Indiana's books.
2. **Eliminate Partisan Gerrymandering** of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts for political gain by the party in control of the Indiana House at the end of each decade.
3. **Provide for Indiana's Energy Needs** with a focus on 'Hoosier Homegrown Energy' by making bio-diesel and ethanol more available to consumers, thus reducing the reliance on imported oil.
4. **Honor and Support Hoosier Veterans and Active Military** by increasing financial assistance to those who are serving today and their families, and honoring veterans for their service.
5. **Empower Indiana Schools** by providing more resources, more flexibility and more incentives for schools, teachers, parents, and students.
6. **Crack Down on Illegal Immigration** by broadening State Police powers to enforce federal immigration laws and ensuring that state benefits are awarded only to legal Indiana residents.
7. **Expand our Job Creation Success** and promote job growth in the small business sector where 75% of Hoosier jobs are created.
8. **Get Tough on Crime** by requiring violent felons to serve at least 85% of their sentence, protecting children from Internet sexual predators, requiring federal background checks on caregivers of the elderly, and protecting all Hoosiers from identity theft, violent offenders, and meth dealers.



Representative Leonard works with legislative staff on the House floor to develop economic development legislation on the House floor.

House Republicans Continue to Support a Balanced State Budget

During the 114th Indiana General Assembly, House Republicans created a biennial budget that was balanced without any general state tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers. The fiscal responsibility put forth by House legislators finally moved Indiana back in the black, ending a decade of operating on a structural deficit.

In order to avoid the projected deficit of \$131 million, state spending increase was held to only 2%. As a result of House legislators' fiscal responsibility, Indiana's current budget reported a surplus of \$371 million when the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

Thanks to the leanest budget Indiana has seen in 55 years, the state was able to repay \$500 million of the debt owed to Indiana K-12 schools, cities and towns, and universities. In addition, statewide school funding was increased by an average of 2.5% per year or \$272.6 million for the biennium, which amounts to nearly \$200 more per student. House legislators also helped provide increased healthcare to citizens in need by improving Medicaid benefits by 5% each of the two years.

House Republicans' budget efforts also provided additional property tax relief for Hoosier homeowners, resulting in an average net property tax rate that actually dropped by 1.1% in 2006. This property tax cut was the first in decades and eliminated the 5% to 7% average net property tax rate increase from the past.

Over the past two years, House legislators worked to create a budget that was fiscally responsible, yet still served the needs of Hoosiers. The Republican-led efforts to create one of the most efficient state budgets in generations will continue in the 2007 legislative session.

9. Help Access

Affordable Healthcare with common sense market based solutions like providing tax credits for Worksite Health Programs, a Health Insurance Premium Deduction, and allowing coverage by a parent's policy until the age of 24.

10. **Let Hoosiers Speak on Traditional Marriage** by voting in the 115th General Assembly on SJR7 – the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman – and placing SJR7 on a referendum ballot for Indiana voters to consider in November of 2008.